



Quotation marks (inverted commas)

Quotation marks are used to:

- show the exact words of a speaker
- enclose the names of books and stories
- quote words and phrases from text

Exact words of a speaker

Zsuzsi said, "I don't like that house".

"Where are you going?" asked George.

"All of the students are in the hall", the teacher answered.

"That boy", said Mr Pike, "is not paying attention."

Notice the two sets of quotation marks and the placement of commas.

Enclosing special names

I enjoyed the book "Struggle to the Sun".

The poem "Ode to Autumn" is difficult to understand.

The ship, "Rainbow Warrior", sailed into the Pacific.

Quotations within quotations use the single form.

"The choir sang 'Advance Australia Fair' very well", said the judge.

Now read this conversation.

"Quickly close the door!" whispered Jane.

"Why?" asked Mary curiously.

"Well, I just heard someone outside", replied Jane anxiously.

"Oh! You are imagining things again", said Mary confidently.

When there is more than one speaker a new line begins when another person starts to speak.

Notice the placement of exclamation and question marks, commas and full stops.

1. Add quotation marks to these sentences.

- He is going to the show said Rhonda.
- Mark saw the young filly cried Bill.
- Take it out at once said Dad.
- I'm sure I know the answer replied Andrew.
- Look out for the falling brick shouted Amanda.

2. Add quotation marks to these broken quotations.

- The girl he replied can hardly lift it.
- Well the stranger asked where is the gift?
- If you travel south he explained you will reach the forest.
- This view announced the driver is the most famous in the district.
- Oh dear groaned the little boy not more wiping up to do.

3. Punctuate the following conversations.

A young man was hoping to visit a drive-in theatre and he rang the weather bureau.

a Hello is that the weather bureau he asked

Yes it certainly is replied the weather announcer

Well what are the chances of a shower tonight the youth asked

Its all right with me Take one if you like replied the weather announcer

b were you able to see him asked jack

no replied steve i had no luck at all

well you ll have to try tomorrow explained jack

yes i suppose so sighed steve but it really is annoying